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Art Unit 3729
Serial No.: 10/783,678Reply to Office Action of: 05/03/2006
Attorney Docket No.: K35R1672.D1**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of fabrication of a slider ~~for reading data from a disk surface~~, said slider having a magneto-resistive transducer including a stack of layers, ~~and electrical leads attached to said transducer, said electrical leads having a proximal end which is proximal to said disk surface~~, comprising the steps of:

- A) forming a first ferromagnetic layer having a proximal end which will be proximal to an air bearing said disk surface of the slider;
- B) forming a non-magnetic metal layer on said first ferromagnetic layer, said non-magnetic metal layer having a proximal end which will be proximal to the air bearing said disk surface of the slider;
- C) forming a second ferromagnetic layer on said non-magnetic metal layer, said second ferromagnetic layer having a proximal end which will be proximal to the air bearing said disk surface of the slider;
- D) forming an antiferromagnetic layer on said second ferromagnetic layer, said antiferromagnetic layer having a proximal end which will be proximal to the air bearing said disk surface of the slider;
- E) recessing at least one of said proximal end[s] of said non-magnetic metal layer and said electrical leads from the air bearing said disk surface of the slider to form at least one recessed area;
- F) applying a layer of protective material to said proximal ends at the air-bearing surface of the slider of said first ferromagnetic layer, said second ferromagnetic layer, and said antiferromagnetic layer; and

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G) F) filling said at least one recessed area with protective material to a depth such that at least a portion of the protective material will remain in the recessed area when said proximal ends of said first ferromagnetic layer, said second ferromagnetic layer, and said antiferromagnetic layer are drive burnished.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (original): The method of fabrication as recited in claim 14, wherein:
said recessing step E is performed by an operation chosen from the group consisting of wet etching, dry etching, reactive ion etching, and reactive ion beam etching

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of fabrication as recited in claim 14, wherein:

said filling step G [[F]] is performed by an operation chosen from the group consisting of ion beam deposit (IBD), chemical vapor deposition (CVD), physical vapor deposition (PVD) and sputtering deposition.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (original): The method of fabrication as recited in claim 14, wherein:
said protective material which is used to fill said recessed area is chosen from a group consisting of Diamond-Like Carbon, silicon and silicon nitride.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of fabrication as recited in claim 14 [[15]], wherein:

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said layer of protective material and said protective material which is used to fill said recessed area is the same, and filling step G [[F]] and said applying step F [[G]] are performed in the same process.

Claim 22 (canceled)